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APPENDIX BAGENTS' SCHOOL, CRIMMITSCHAU

Crimmitschau

A. INTRODUCTION

1. If Prisoner is an average example of the type of agent turned out by the agents' school at CRIMMITSCHAU, it can be assumed that the school trains only very low-grade agents. These attend a three months' course which is interrupted after six weeks by a preliminary examination, followed by two weeks' practical experience in the field, in the Western Zones in the company of one or more experienced agents. The course is then resumed for a further four weeks and is terminated by a final examination. The students are then taken once more across the demarcation line by experienced agents, after which they disperse to the particular towns allotted to them. On arrival there, they report to a resident agent, who acts as a reporting centre. If the beginner is not accompanied and introduced by an experienced agent, the resident agent is notified in advance of the beginner's arrival.

2. All infm obtained by the new agent is passed on to the reporting centre and collated there. Other experienced agents who cross to and from the Russian Zone at intervals, call at the reporting centres from time to time, and collect the infm which has accumulated there. Prisoner's experiences in this respect are very limited. She knows only that such reports were submitted to VICHORSKI in HECKLINGEN and to SKRIVANEK in CRIMMITSCHAU.

3. Another function of the reporting centres appears to be to provide accommodation for agents visiting the town for a very short time. Furthermore, they help the new agent to obtain permission to take up residence in the relevant town or district. They also brief the new agent on the type of infm required from the locality, and where and how it can best be obtained. Until they have found their feet and gained more practical experience, new agents are encouraged to apply to resident agents for advice in tackling any particular situation.

4. It is felt that infm of high-grade intelligence value is not expected of these agents. It would seem that they are used chiefly for their nuisance value and for the purpose of distracting attention from the more important agents who are working in the Western Zones. These new agents are instructed, if captured, to prevaricate and to procrastinate, but under no circumstances to tell the truth or to betray any of their comrades.

G. LOCATION AND ORG OF SCHOOL

5. The agents' school was formerly an Oberschule. It is situated at CRIMMITSCHAU nr ZWICKAU/SAXONY, Obere Frankfurter Str 10. The local Komandatura is also housed in the same building. The school stands in its own grounds. The garden is bounded by a wall, but there is no barbed-wire fencing. A guard is posted at the only entrance, which is at the front of the school.

6. The agents' school was opened apparently about mid Nov 45. Prisoner attended the second course, which commenced 1 Mar 46. She believes that the maximum capacity of the school is 200 students. That number is said to have attended the first course. There were only 60 students on Prisoner's course. A third course was scheduled to start on 1 Jul 46. About 30 students had assembled at the school up to the time of Prisoner's departure from CRIMMITSCHAU.

7. All the students slept in dormitories at the school. Each dormitory contained 20 beds, but during Prisoner's stay only twelve beds in each occupied dormitory were used. The men occupied the second floor and the women the first floor. The lecture-rooms were also located on the first and second floors.

8. The students were confined to the precincts of the school for the duration of the course. This rule was neither strictly observed nor strictly enforced. Students who were caught out-of-bounds were admonished, but no disciplinary action of a severer nature was taken against them.

9. The students received no pay or pocket-money during the course. In theory they had no need for it, as they were not allowed out to spend it. They were provided with toilet requisites and canteen goods free of charge.

10. The school came under the adm of a Russian Officer, SKRIVANEK, who was also Commandant of the local Komandatura. Under him served six lecturers; five Germans and a Pole. Hours of lecture were flexible, being sometimes in the mornings and sometimes in the afternoons. On some days no lectures were held at all. Such days were occupied by the students in writing essays on the lectures they had so far received.

C. TEXTBOOKS

11. All the textbooks used by the students were hand-written. They were issued on the scale of one book per three students. Prisoner can recollect the following books:

- a) How do I work as an Agent?
- b) The Secret Service compared with the GESTAPO.
- c) Political Parties in the Russian and Western Zones.
- d) Recruitment of SS and Offrs.
- e) How do I find Reichsleiter BORMANN?

12. Besides the above, the students were provided with Communist and National-Socialist literature. Communist literature included books by GEBER: "Der Kommunist", and RENNER: "Der Kampf", "Der Krieg" and "Russland". National-Socialist literature included books by HESS, LEY and the writings of Horst WESSEL; HITLER's "Mein Kampf" was also included. These National-Socialist books had been liberally interspersed with notes, refuting the arguments put forward. These notes were pasted in the books at the appropriate place in the form of additional pages. The students were also given newspaper cuttings from papers published in the Western Zones. For instance, these

gave details of the progress of the NUREMBERG trials. An explanatory note, giving the Russian point of view, was always added to these cuttings by SKRIVANEK. Prisoner remembers that when the result of the trial of the leading Nazi personalities was published, SKRIVANEK added the comment that they had been dealt with too leniently and that Russian requests for the handing-over of those not executed had been rejected by the Western Allies.

D. CURRICULUM

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14. "How do I work as an Agent?"

Part of these lectures appears to have consisted of teaching students how to make contacts and how to bring the conversation on to int topics. The students were instructed to apply to the nearest reporting centre in the district or town to which they were allocated, and to ask resident agents for their advice and for infm on the locality. Places considered particularly suitable for establishing first contacts were cafes and canteens where both Allied personnel and German civilians are permitted. It was pointed out that these fields of operation were particularly suitable for the women agents. ORs were considered more suitable for exploitation than officers. Once the first approaches had been made, talk should be of an Anti-Russian nature. The possibility of a war between RUSSIA and the Western Allies should be discussed, particularly the possible outcome of such a war. In that way the conversation could be steered in the direction of the amount of armaments available to the Western Allies to be used against the Russians. It was also necessary to discover the location of such armaments, and whether armaments were now being produced by German factories in the Western Zones. The students were also told to try and ascertain the name of the unit stationed in the locality, and if possible its strength and the arms at its disposal. Once such infm had been obtained, the students were instructed to go to the actual location. Even if this should be in a restricted area and it were impossible to approach closely, by studying the place personally the agent would be in a position to supply a better report on the infm obtained.

15. "The Secret Service compared with the Gestapo"

No attempt appears to have been made during the lectures to explain the org of the Secret Service, or rather the int organization in the Western Zones. It would seem that the term "Secret Service" was used more with the object of impressing the students. Emphasis was laid mainly on the harsh treatments agents could expect, if captured. In this respect the "Secret Service" was compared rather unfavorably with the Gestapo. It was stressed that the Gestapo had shown no consideration for old people, women or children, and that similarly no consideration could be expected from the "Secret Service". Horrible tortures could be expected by those people who allowed themselves to be suspected of being agents. They would be incarcerated in dark cells, without heating.

Food would be withheld from them, and they would not be allowed to sleep. Beds and interrogation chairs would be electrified. If the prisoner showed himself to be obstinate during interrogation, he would be given electric shocks at intervals to bring him to reason. In extreme cases the prisoner could expect death.

Even if subjected to such treatment, the prisoner was not to divulge any damaging infm. If sentenced to long terms of imprisonment agents could expect their release at the hands of the Russians in due course, and their suffering and loyalty would then be recompensed in ample measure

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16. Political Parties in the Russian and Western Zones

It is understandable that on this subject Prisoner is even more vague and confused than on any other subject. In essence, the students were given the names of the various political parties now established in occupied GERMANY, and details of their programmes (Prisoner could not even remember all their names). Obviously the trend of the lectures was pro-Russian and anti-Western Allies. The students were encouraged to try to propagate Communism and to spread reports of the excellent conditions in the Russian Zone.

It was pointed out that BRITAIN had sold herself to the Americans during the war in order to survive. BRITAIN was not now in a position to feed herself, much less GERMANY. The Americans were very unlikely to come to BRITAIN's aid in this respect. The part of GERMANY occupied by the British could not produce sufficient food to support all the inhabitants of the Zone. The same applied to the US Zone. Consequently, the political parties in the Western Zones would not be able to fulfill any promises made of economic recovery and more food in GERMANY. On the other hand, RUSSIA held that part of GERMANY which had previously acted to a very large extent as the food-store for all GERMANY. Economic recovery could be achieved only by voting either for the Communist party or for "Freies Deutschland". A time would come when BRITAIN would find her Zone in GERMANY an unendurable liability, and RUSSIA would then be able to extend her influence still further.

Such propaganda was to be directed against the German population. At the same time, the agents were to try to obtain all possible infm which would prove that the Western Powers were arming for another war. It was to be stressed that any attempt to wage war against RUSSIA would be doomed to failure and that if the Western Powers knew of the resources at RUSSIA's disposal, they would hesitate before engaging in any such venture.

17. "Recruitment of SS and Offrs"

The students were instructed to endeavor to recruit all members of the SS from the rank of Uscharf upwards and offrs of other arms whom they met, who were compelled to live "underground" in the Western Zones. The students were not told how the Russians intended to employ men thus recruited. The only inducement which the students were authorised to offer such men was the assurance that they would not be arrested and imprisoned on arrival in the Russian Zone. On the contrary, they would be given every opportunity to earn their livelihood. No set rule was laid down as to how the recruits were to proceed to the Russian Zone, except that they were to be escorted by any agent who happened to be returning there.

Independently of the lectures, Prisoner learned that such men were being used to instruct Russians in the use of German arms. On the other hand they received instructions in the use of Russian arms. They were also used for the training of German soldiers. Prisoner met a number of such men on one of her illicit expeditions in CRIMMITSCHAU. They appeared mostly to be refugees from the French Zone, who had formerly been in the SS, or had been associated with the Werewolf movement. They were quartered in a large barracks on the outskirts of CRIMMITSCHAU.

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18. "How do I find Reichsleiter BORMANN?"

JEPSEN gave the students a lecture on the possible whereabouts of Martin BORMANN. They were told that BORMANN was most certainly alive and in hiding in the US Zone. At the same time they were given a detailed description of him. The students were instructed to report any infm about BORMANN or his whereabouts to the agent at the nearest reporting centre, who would then follow the matter up. Prisoner has no idea what steps the agent had to take on receiving such infm. The students were led to believe that the Russians intended to enlist BORMANN's service in some capacity, but they were not told in what capacity. In return, BORMANN would be allowed to live freely in the Russian Zone. Prisoner

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19. "Behaviour if Captured"

It was impressed upon the students as important, that under no circumstances were they to carry two different sets of identity papers on their person. Should they be arrested, it would then be impossible to prove that they were not the person they professed to be. During the course of the lectures, the students were thoroughly rehearsed in the story they were to tell, if arrested (Prisoner learned her cover-story so thoroughly, and put it over in such an excellent manner, that although she was arrested, not only did she gain her release, but she allayed all suspicion that had attached to her). Should the story not be accepted, or flaws be found in it, then another cover-story was to be told, and this process was to be continued indefinitely. The main object was to keep the IO occupied for as long a period as possible. Under no circumstances should the true story be told, or any infm be given which might endanger the safety of other agents.

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20. "New Agents' Routine when proceeding on a Mission"

During the time when Prisoner attended the agents' school, all the students were sent on two missions, the first one after the course had lasted six weeks, and the second on

the termination of the course. In both instances practically the same routine was followed.

The students went on their first missions in groups. Such groups rarely exceeded four in number, generally consisting of three new agents and one experienced agent, or two new and two experienced agents. All the students were instructed to stand by in the school and to report to the Commandant's office individually as their names were announced over the loudspeaker. The Commandant then introduced the student or students to the agents they would accompany. These more experienced agents had assembled in the school in the meantime.

The students were then given an alias and provided

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The students also had to sign a declaration pledging themselves to strict secrecy. At the same time, they bound themselves to serve the Russians for two years, or in some cases for one year.

As salary they were to receive RM 500 per month. Prisoner received a first payment of RM 250 for her personal use. All her expenses were to be borne by REICH, whom she was to accompany. Also included in her party were KODER and EVERMANN both experienced agents.

After completion of these preliminaries all the students, together with their escorts, boarded three buses. The side and rear windows of these buses were of tinted glass. One bus went in the direction of HELMSTEDT, and the other two, [REDACTED] went to ARENSHAUSEN.

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On arrival there the occupants alighted and entered the Komandatura. It was explained to them by BOGE that the various groups would be called forward one at a time. They were then to proceed quietly on foot to the demarcation line, cross into the British Zone and surrender as refugees to the British Control, whereupon they would be directed to the nearest Refugee Camp. There they were to produce only their birth certificates and to register as refugees.

Practically the same routine was followed when the students went on their second mission. On this occasion, however, they were provided with an outfit of clothing, underwear, shoes, toilet requisites, etc. in preparation for a lengthy stay in the Western Zones. Prisoner was also given a further RM 500. On this occasion her party consisted of REICH and KODER, as experienced agents, and Prisoner and Waltraud ERNST (alias Helga von STYX), as novices. As previously, all the groups boarded buses and Prisoner's bus again went to ARENSHAUSEN, where they crossed the demarcation line as before.